

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00920 191501 Z

47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

SY-10 RSR-01 /144 W

----- 111158

O R 191450 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8890

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0920

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MOPS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: MAY 15 BORDER SHOOTING INCIDENT

1. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD APPRECIATE DELIVERY
FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ASAP:

2. QUOTE: EXTERNAL G. A. A. C. R. O.
SUBJECT: DEATH OF CANADIAN TOURISTS

3. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE GRZ COMMUNIQUE WHICH ADMITS
SHOOTING AND INDIRECTLY EXPRESSES REGRET BUT IS AT VARIANCE
WITH REPORTS ASSIGNED TO EYE WITNESSES AND TO WHICH WE HAVE
REFERRED EARLIER. LEITH HAS SPOKEN TO MRS. CARRUTHERS IN
WANKIE AND MAY HAVE FURTHER INFO WHEN HE RETURNS IN MID- WEEK.

4. IT APPEARS THAT ARMY, NOT FOREIGN OFFICE, HAS PLAYED MAJOR
ROLE IN DRAFTING THE COMMUNIQUE AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE
MANNER IN WHICH EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED IN JUSTIFYING
IMPLAUSIBLE ACTION TAKEN BY GUARDS. IT MAY ALSO ACCOUNT FOR
THE FACT THAT NEITHER WE NOR U. S. EMBASSY WERE INFORMED OF
CONCLUSIONS OF INVESTIGATION PRIOR TO PUBLIC RELEASE.

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5. THERE IS MUCH IN COMMUNIQUE THAT IS JUSTIFIABLE -- THE BORDER IS A SOURCE OF CONTINUING TENSION AND THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. IT IS DIFFICULT HOWEVER TO UNDERSTAND HOW GUARDS COULD, IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, MISTAKE TOURISTS FOR SUBVERSIVES.

6. SOME FOREIGN PRESS HAVE INDICATED THEY CONSIDER THE COMMUNIQUE A WHITEWASH. OBVIOUSLY, WITH MORE CAREFUL DRAFTING AND LARGER CONSIDERATION OF POLITICAL ISSUES, IT WOULD, WE THINK, HAVE MADE MUCH MORE OF A FACE SAVING DOCUMENT.

7. TO INQUIRIES FROM PRESS WE HAVE SAID WE HAVE NO COMMENT. BROADBRIDGE. END QUOTE.
NELSON

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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SECSTATE WASHDC
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